
Eastern Europe

Portugal

Shortly after the overthrow of the Portuguese Government on April 25 Mr. MacEachen assured the Portuguese Foreign Minister, Mario Soares, during sessions of the NATO ministerial meeting that he was taking a sympathetic interest in the developments in Portugal. He indicated that Canada was especially pleased with the new regime's policies of decolonization and restoration of democracy.

In September the Portuguese Secretary of State for Immigration, Pedro Coelho, paid an unofficial visit to Canada accompanied by several senior Portuguese officials.

Some 15,300 Portuguese immigrants entered Canada in 1974 making Portugal second only to Britain as the most important source of European immigrants.

Malta

Friendly exchanges between the Canadian and Maltese Governments occurred by way of ambassadorial visits and continued co-operation in the UN and Commonwealth contexts.

In 1974 the Canadian Government continued to give practical expression—in the bilateral and international context—to its support for East-West détente. While the pace of the development of relations and co-operation with the East European countries varied according to the possibilities, Canada's goal was to maintain and expand relations on the basis of mutual interest and as a contribution to international understanding and security. High-level visits, political and trade consultations, cultural exchanges, sports and tourism all contributed to the implementation of this policy.

Soviet Union

During 1974 the improvement of political contacts with the Soviet Union and the development of our trade, economic, cultural and scientific relations remained prime objectives of Canada's policy toward the Soviet Union. In September Mr. MacEachen met Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko at the United Nations in New York for annual bilateral talks under the 1971 Protocol on Consultations. Exchanges between government officials took place on the trade and economic side. Industrial exchanges continued within the framework of the eight working groups established under the Canada-U.S.S.R. Agreement on Co-operation in the Industrial Application of Science and Technology.



Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, co-signs Canada-U.S.S.R. Trade Protocol Agreement with Russian Ambassador to Canada, Alexander N. Yakovlev. Industry, Trade and Commerce Minister Alastair Gillespie (standing) accompanied Mr. Sharp at ceremony.